



Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Based on the Key Model Policy

Policy Ratified: Autumn Term, 2025

To be reviewed: Autumn Term, 2026

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

Check your local authority's guidance on providing education to children with additional health needs, to see what responsibilities it places on you in this circumstance.

Adapt the sections below as needed. You'll also need to edit the text in section 3.2 if your responsibilities deviate from what we've set out, which is general good practice derived from DfE guidance.

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

You may want to add more details on areas such as:

- These arrangements will be organised by the class teacher, in liaison with the school SENCo
- This may include sending work home
- These arrangements will be discussed with the parents and young person.
- We will work closely with the parents and medical professionals to arrange the reintegration into school. This may include a phased return.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Hertfordshire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

You may want to add more details about how and when your local authority would take over responsibility, such as:

- We would liaise with the local authority and parents to ensure that the arrangements are deemed suitable.
- We would make a referral to the local authority if the child is absent for 30 consecutive days.

- Referrals are made to ESMA via the [Hertfordshire Service Request form](#) along with the [ISL baseline information form](#) to the relevant ISL geographical area.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully
- When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
 - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
 - Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

(The DfE advises that you review this policy annually, in its [list of statutory policies](#).)

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Equalities Statement